

## **REMARKS**

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed March 19, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

### **I. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 9-11, 24, and 25 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the Examiner's indication, Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claim 9 and intervening claims 6 and 7 into independent claim 1 and has incorporated the limitations of claim 24 into independent claim 20. In view of those amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 20, and their dependents, are in condition for immediate allowance.

### **II. Double Patenting Rejections - Obviousness-type Double Patenting**

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 12, 14-17, and 20-23 have been rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable in view of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 18, 19, 20, and 22 of U.S. Patent Appl. No. 10/839,859 ("the '859 patent application").

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's notification that a potential double patenting issue exists. Given that the '859 patent application has not yet issued, Applicant will defer action in relation to the '859 patent application until such time when that application is allowed.

### **III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101**

Claims 26-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being drawn to non-statutory subject matter.

In response to the rejection, Applicant amended remaining claims 26 and 29 so that they are explicitly drawn to a "computer-readable medium". Applicant respectfully submits that such a medium comprises either or both of a machine and manufacture under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

### **IV. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-6 and 12-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ackerman, et al.* ("Ackerman," U.S. Pat. No. 5,146,460).

As indicated above, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner. In view of that amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5, 8, 10, and 11 are allowable.

In addition, Applicant has amended independent claim 12 to incorporate similar limitations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-15, 17, and 19 are also allowable.

**V. Canceled Claims**

Claims 6, 7, 9, 16, 18, 24, and 27-28 have been canceled from the application without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

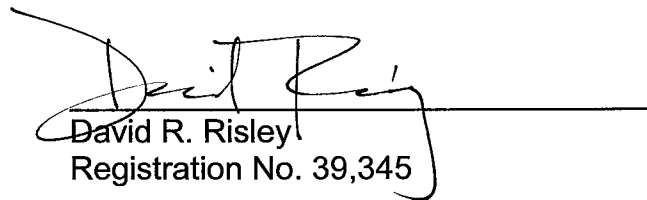
**VI. New Claim**

Claim 30 has been added into the application through this Response. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 30 describes an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that claim 30 be held to be allowable.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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